

# St John's Catholic Primary School, Scarborough



## **Strategic Plan 2016-2019**



*St John's School,  
as part of the  
Catholic faith  
community,  
strives to provide  
a caring,  
compassionate  
and supportive  
environment,  
where each person  
is valued and  
encouraged to  
develop his/her  
full potential.*

## School History

The Sisters of Mercy opened St John's School in 1948. The majority of original students were from European migrant families living in the local area. Most of the school in that early era was built by voluntary labour.

In 1950 a group of Dominican Sisters, who were then based in Dongara, took over responsibility for the parish school and Sr Mary Albertus O.P. was the first superior.

Enrolments peaked in 1958 with small numbers going on to Junior and Leaving Certificate (Years 10 and 12). Prior to 1983, boys transferred to other schools, such as Christian Brothers in Leederville or Marist Brothers in Wembley, after Year 3. In 1958 the first lay teacher was employed.

The first lay principal, Miss Nancy Genovese, was appointed in 1981 when the Dominican sisters relinquished control of the school.

Enrolments declined in later years due to the aging population of Scarborough and the many new schools that opened in the newly populated northern suburbs. An innovative plan to prevent the school from closing was initiated by Miss Genovese. This consisted of hiring buses to transport students to and from their homes in the northern suburbs and resulted in far healthier enrolment numbers.

With a gradual increase of younger generations taking up residence in Scarborough and the surrounding suburbs, upgrading of the school facilities began in 1990 and included 2 new classrooms, a Pre Primary, a Kindergarten, an Administration block and redevelopment of the grounds. This coincided with increased enrolments, which saw the school's enrolment nearing capacity.

The school's crest has been adapted from the original black and white fleur-de-lis cross-fitted into the shield and worn as a badge on the school uniform.

The shape – in the form of a shield – refers to the defense of the Church's teaching, which St Dominic fought for during his life; to restore the faith to a world ravaged by heresy. He was ready to defend the truth at all times.

## Motto

VERITAS – Truth, which appears on the scroll under the shield, summarises the whole ideal of the Dominican Sisters ethos.

## Vision and Mission

St John's is a Catholic school that forms a faith community sharing the church's task of spreading the good news that a loving God, always present in our lives, will bring us to eternal happiness.

The school forms an educating community that involves students, staff and parents in a welcoming and nurturing atmosphere that is helping its students to make sense of their faith in their daily lives and culture.

This emanates from an organised, open and disciplined environment thus enabling children to grow towards their true potential, developing the responsibilities and respect this brings to them and others.

With this, the school generates HOPE and seeks the TRUTH in all its endeavours as it strives for EXCELLENCE.

## Community

*Cultivating a sense of sharing in loyalty to the whole school community and the wider community of which we are a part*

## Achievement

*Promoting the value of personal effort and respect for the efforts of others*

## Honesty

*Fostering authenticity in our view of self and in our behavior and representations to others*

## Strategic Direction

There are four key elements established by the Catholic Education of Western Australia (CEWA) that underpin St John's Strategic Plan that will give the school direction over the next three years.

These are:

**Learning** is what we do. We are committed to learning at every level.

**Engagement** is essential. We are committed to Catholic Education's mission through relationships with all.

**Accountability** is not optional. We have a personal and collective responsibility for our system's success.

**Discipleship** is our calling. We are committed to deepening our relationships with Jesus.

St John's has sought input and feedback from the whole school community, including members of the school board, staff and parent community. We are appreciative of the feedback provided and commitment of all stakeholders.

As a Catholic educational community the overarching intentions for all behaviours, habits, practice and performance in all life within St John's Catholic Primary School is to:

1. Faith Development  
Aspire to the school motto "VERITAS" and uphold the Dominican Way through the development of the whole person to be more like Christ.
2. Education Engagement  
Establish a culture that promotes learning, embraces effective teaching practices and establishes a mindset that all that is done within the school is to enhance student achievement.

We look forward to working in partnership with the school community during the next three years to engage students in their learning, improve outcomes and give clear directions for the future.

Mary Bizzaca  
Principal

## Friendship

*The pursuit of quality relationships among the whole school community*

## Self Respect

*Developing personal inner harmony and promoting the personal development of others*

# Education – Learning

*Learning is what we do.*

*We are committed to learning at every level.*

## Goals

- To implement a School Improvement Methodology, Changing School Culture, throughout the school, an explicit improvement agenda grounded in research and practice
- To apply 21<sup>st</sup> Century Learning principles to improve student engagement, performance and achievement; and to provide consistent practices within the school
- To use data as a means to make purposeful change to performance and gains in students' achievement.
- Teachers are encouraged to tailor their teaching to students' needs and readiness and identify skills gaps and misunderstandings. Catering for individual differences by offering multiple means of representation, engagement and expression.
- Provide excellence in Early Childhood Education

## Key Measures of Success

- An action learning project is undertaken for school improvement
- Professional Development is focused on the Curriculum Areas and targets explicit teaching
- Learning is visible in the environment
- High level of quality teaching and learning is demonstrated
- Teachers and students are proficient in the use of technology to enhance learning
- Within the classroom context there will be visible differentiation of learning for students such as ability grouping, enrichment programs, learning support
- Moderated work samples are regularly used to inform future teaching
- Improved results in NAPLAN testing
- Measurable improvement in students' outcomes, particularly Literacy and Numeracy
- Student needs are identified through differentiated curriculum and all students are provided with appropriate opportunities to make gains
- Outdoor and indoor spaces are designed and organized to engage every child in quality experiences in built and natural environments
- Positive rating in the National Quality Standards
- Staff members continue to implement the EYLF into their planning and programing

*At St John's we believe that learning is an ability to marvel at the created world. It promotes a desire to seek understanding, to express creatively and to maximise one's own individual gifts and talents. It is through learning that we can live in harmony with God.*

## Community – Engagement

***Engagement is essential.***

*We are committed to Catholic Education’s mission through positive relationships for all.*

### Goals

- To provide organizational clarity amongst all stakeholders within the school around school procedure, practice and expectations
- To build on pastoral care initiatives that promotes dignity and integrity of all school members as priority
- To maximize Student leadership opportunities
- To challenge and encourage students to greater involvement in the decisions regarding classroom environments, personal goal setting and caring for school mates
- To foster the sustainability model of environment care and impact
- Establish strong relationships with families, parish and parish community to actively engage in school improvement conversation

### Key Measures of Success

- School Handbook and Induction Processes have been reviewed and implemented
- A comprehensive Handover process is evident which includes Literacy and Numeracy data
- Community members understand the school virtues framework related to You Can Do It, KidsMatter and Highway Heroes resources and utilize its significance in their daily activities and intentions
- Children understand and live the school values
- Sustainability and ecological practices are demonstrated across the school
- Parents are actively involved in the school
- There is visible improvement in attendance at church events from St John’s school community

*At St John’s we believe that community is vital in the development of positive and enriched relationships. It promotes acceptance, embraces diversity and celebrates togetherness; thus allowing members to live in harmony with others.*

# Stewardship/Governance – Accountability

***Accountability is not optional.***

*We have personal and collective responsibility for our systems' success.*

## Goals

- To apply whole school strategy, scope and sequence; as well as assessment and reporting methodology that successfully aligns to the EYLF and AC implementation and expectations
- Align teaching practices and protocols to AITSL standards and National Quality Standards (NQS) to ensure teacher quality and performance is significantly monitored
- Teachers show evidence of differentiation consideration for students when planning lessons
- Provide professional learning opportunities that allow for the development of staff skills, knowledge and capacity to improve learning for students
- Exposing parents to teaching strategies in order to help them with their children's learning at home
- Ensure sound transactional practices are in place to allow for successful management of school budget
- Budget provisions for improvements to ECE Grounds to support QIP goals for environment
- Plan for the consistent progression of changes to classrooms, playground and staff facilities ensuring spaces are evolving into more contemporary, attractive areas conducive to learning in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century

## Key Measures of Success

- Facilities and playground spaces comply with the National Quality Standards
- The classroom environment is the third teacher and reflects 21<sup>st</sup> century learning
- Staff uses feedback for personal and collective development
- Parent Information Meetings are well regarded and attended
- Information Technology infrastructure is extended and maintained to a high standard
- The financial administration of the school follows CEWA policies and process and expenditure is kept within the annual budget
- Budget allocation are adequate for staff professional development
- Policies are reviewed and updated in a timely manner and those relevant to the school community are uploaded onto the school website
- The success of the Professional Learning is observable through improved student work and within the classroom environment

*At St John's we believe that Service is the notion of giving to others and wanting to make a profound difference in another individual's life. It promotes the selfless acts of Jesus and helps us to become more like Him in order to live harmoniously.*

# Catholic Identity – Discipleship

***Discipleship*** is our calling.

*We are committed to deepening our relationships with Jesus.*

## Goals

- Promote the school motto “VERITAS” (Truth) to develop students as faith filled individuals who live in the model of Jesus through their actions, words and deeds
- Religious symbols – input from the students regarding what symbolisms they would suggest, select or choose within their school environment to represent their Catholic faith
- Build on the Catholic Identity of St John’s Catholic Primary School and continue to nurture the charism and history of the Dominican story

## Key Measures of Success

- The Gospel values are evident in the school community
- Increased awareness of the vulnerable and the poor
- Children understand the concept of giving, without receiving
- Religious symbols are visible throughout the classrooms and children have an input in regards to what is displayed
- Ongoing communication between the parish and school to strengthen relationships
- Children will have gained confidence in articulating the life and mission of St John through their words and action
- The Dominican Charism described as the Four Pillars will be demonstrably visible in a variety of rooms around the school

*At St John’s we believe that Faith is a gift from God. It fosters the development of reflective practice and nurtures the understanding of key Gospel principles. It is through this that the growth of a personal and harmonious relationship with Him is enabled.*